

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DLOS-06 SAL-01 EB-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OES-06 /099 W

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R 301343Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2378
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4220

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NO
SUBJ: GERMAN SVALBARD POLICY

1. GERMAN EMBASSY DCM KARL WAND BREIFED DCM AUG 27
ON STATE OF GERMAN CONSIDERATION OF SVALBARD ISSUES.
WAND IS ONE OF THE BETTER INFORMED DIPLOMATS IN OSLO ON
SVALBARD ISSUES AND GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS VIEWS
ON SVALBARD ARE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT IN BONN.

2. WAND STATED THAT HE HAD SUBMITTED HIS ANALYSIS OF THE
SVALBARD SITUATION TO BONN SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AS CONTRIBU-
TION TO THE FRG'S ON-GOING STUDY OF SVALBARD. WAND'S
ANALYSIS WAS THAT THE CENTRAL GERMAN OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE
TO COUNTER SOVIET WXPANSIONARY PRESSURES IN THE NORTHERN
WATERS WITHOUT PROVOKING SOVIET COUNTERMEASURES. AS A
COROLLARY OBJECTIVE, HIS ANALYSIS ARGUES, IT IS IMPORTANT
TO PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORWEGIAN-SOVIET BILATERALISM
ON ISSUES IN THE NORTH.

3. WAND RECOGNIZES THAT THE GON'S OBJECTIVES IN THE
AREA MAY NOT COINCIDE WITH GERMANY'S THE US'S OR OTHER
ALLIES. HE BELEIVES, IN FACT, THAT THE ENGINE FORCE
BEHIND NORWAY'S INSISTANCE ON ITS SOLE JURISDICTION
FOR 200 MILES AROUND SVALBARD IS PURE ECONOMIC GREED
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("A RENAISSANCE OF THE VIKING SPIRIT OF PLUNDER").

HE BELIEVES A MEANS MUST BE FOUND TO TAKE LEGITIMATE NORWEGIAN CONCERNS INTO ACCOUNT WHILE SERVING GERMAN AND ALLIED INTEREST.

4. WAND HAS THEREFORE PROPOSED TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT IT SUPPORT THE EXTENSION OF ALL SPITSBERGEN TREATY PROVISIONS TO THE SO-CALLED TREATY AREA (DEFINED IN ARTICLE 1 AS THE AREA BETWEEN THE 10TH AND 35TH LONGITUDES AND 74TH AND 81ST LATITUDES). THIS ZONE WOULD BE CALLED "DETENTE ZONE" (IN GERMAN. ENTSPANNUNGS ZONE") SINCE THE DEMILITARIZATION PROVISION OF THE TREATY (ARTICLE9) WOULD APPLY THERE. WAND FORESEES THAT THE DETENTE ZONE PROPOSAL COULD BE GIVEN ADDITIONAL APPEAL TO THE SOVIETS AND OTHERS BY PORTRAYING IT AS A CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURE PURSUANT TO THE CSCE. FINALLY, UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, ALL TREATY SIGNATORIES WOULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS, ALBEIT UNDER NORWEGIAN CONTROL, TO THE LIVING AND DEAD RESOURCES ON AND UNDER THE WATERS IN THE DETENTE ZONE.

5. WAND STATES THAT THE FRG HAS REACTED "VERY POSITIVELY" TO HIS PROPOSAL AND THAT FRG FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN IT. ACCORDING TO WAND, THE FRG WILL HAVE AN INTERAGENCY MEETING TO CONSIDER HIS PROPOSAL ON SEPTEMBER 23. HE STATES THAT VAN WELL KNOWS HE HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY IN OSLO ABOUT HIS PROPOSAL AND THAT THE FRG WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE USG'S INITIAL REACTION TO IT, HOPEFULLY BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER 23 MEETING.

6. DCM NOTED THAT USG'S INTERNAL CONSIDERATION OF SVALBARD ISSUES WAS CONTINUING AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW IF OUR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE FRG A CONSIDERED ANALYSIS OF WAND'S "DETENTE ZONE" PROPOSAL BEFORE SEPTEMBER 23. HOWEVER, DCM AGREED TO SUGGEST TO DEPT. THAT DEPT. OFFICIALS MIGHT DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THE FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OR MIGHT ASK OUR EMBASSY IN BONN TO GIVE USG'S VIEWS DIRECTLY TO FRG FOREIGN OFFICE.

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7. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING ABOUT ANY REACTION USG MAY HAVE TO WAND'S PROPOSAL.
ANDERS

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